JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Doctrine study taps Holy Spirit's power

By William H. Perkins Jr. Editor

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When it comes to winning the world for Jesus, Christians should not "gloss over" the power of the Holy Spirit as described in Acts 1:8, said the author of the book being used as the basis of the 2005 Southern Baptist Doctrine Study during a January 19 meeting at First Church, Oxford.

Nate Adams, vice president for media and mobilization at the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, and author of The Acts 1:8 Challenge: Empowering the Church to be on Mission, pointed out that the early church was instructed to wait until they received the power of the Holy Spirit before they departed to spread the Gospel message in "Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

his book, Adams said:

Gospel. International Mission

Board missionaries are now reaching almost 200 new people groups each year.

In providing an overview of DOCTRINE DISCUSSION - Nate Adams (right), vice president for media and mobilization at the North American Mission Board in Atlanta, talks with (from left) Terry Brown, pastor of Como • "There are people groups Church, Como; Courtney Selvy, missions director for Panola Association in Batesville; and Don in the world ("ends of the Hicks, consultant in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist earth") that are waiting for our Convention Board in Jackson, after the 2005 Southern Baptist Doctrine Study on January 19 at church to bring them the First Church, Oxford. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

> Yet 1.5 billion people in 5,000 people groups still have little or no access to the

 "For today's church, as for the early church, 'Samaria' is a close-by place that we rarely visit, and Samaritans are those who live relatively near us but who are not like us. God calls Christians to personalize the Gospel for diverse peoples in and near their homelands.
"It's estimated that in North America

seven out of 10 people do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. North America's lostness is as deep as the world's is wide.

 "If Samaritans are seen as those who live relatively near us but are not like us, then 'Judea' can be seen as those who live relatively near us who in many ways are like us. God calls Christians to nearby people who may share regional idenor religious familiarity but not real fellowship with Christ.

One great challenge of the Judea mission field is the barrier of 'presumed familiarity' that people have with the Gospel. Those who were lost in a works-based religion in the first century were likely to declare, 'I'm Roman, or 'I'm Jewish,' just as those lost in the Judea mission field of the church today might declare, 'I'm Baptist,' or I'm Catholic.'"

• "The 'Jerusalem' mission field is the

surrounding community where you live, work, shop, play, and go to school. God calls Christians out into their local communities..."

Adams described the purpose of the church as to be the "carrier of the Gospel message," but he said he is concerned that Christians have staked out a more self-centered position: "me."

"Pastors say the church is for the fulfillment of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), but too many laypeople say (the church) is for 'me,' Adams observed.

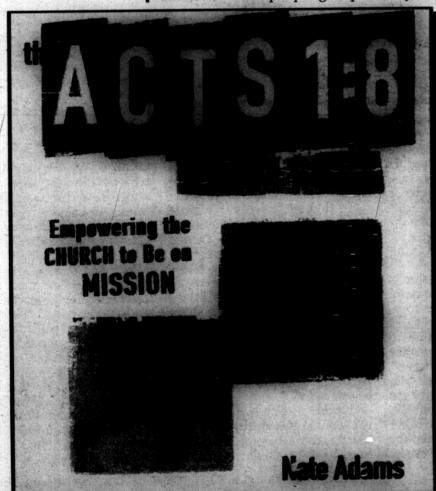
"To join God in His mission," Adams said, "I need:

 A global priority: I need to understand that the focus of the risen Lord Jesus Christ is on the Kingdom of God. A global perspective: I see history

and the world from God's point of view. A global power and plan: I receive

and radiate through my church."
The 2005 Doctrine Study was sponsored by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program. More information on the Acts 1:8 Challenge is available at www.actsone8.com. Adams' book is available through LifeWay Christian Resources at (800) 458-2772; www.lifeway.com, or through local LifeWay Christian Stores.

For more information on the Acts 1:8 Challenge in Mississippi, contact David Michel, Associate Executive Director for Mission Strategy, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3321, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 321. E-mail: lmarler@mbcb.org.



EDITOR'S *NOTEBOOK*





William H. Perkins Jr. Editor

EDITOR William H. Perkins Jr. wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR Tony Martin tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN Matt Broome mbroome@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING Dana Richardson drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER Brenda Quattlebaum bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

> **EDITOR EMERITUS** Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Mack Amis, McComb James Beasley, Crystal Springs Al Green Jr., Bay St. Louis Rick Henson, Brandon Beverly Pyron, Natchez Billy Watkins, Madison Dana Richardson, secretary

Postmaster: Send changes of address to: The **BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,** Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

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Tel: (601) 968-3800 Fax: (601) 292-3330 E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

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Dear Legislator...

he 2005 session of the Mississippi Legislature is revving up to fullspeed, as proposed legislation moves to committees and will soon be coming up on a series of deadlines.

As anyone knows who even casually tracks the annual three-month sessions of the Legislature, many bills are introduced but relatively few make it into law. The complex set of checks and balances both inside the legislative process and in the broader branches of state government have

a tendency to winnow the hundreds and hundreds of bills that are filed and pre-filed for each session.

Legislators have to absorb their share of criticism, cynicism, and caricature during their time under the hoary domes of the New Capitol in downtown Jackson. Some of the ridicule showered on them is likely deserved (by some of them, anyway), but a fair amount is not deserved.

They are, after all, our fellow Mississippians. For every citizen who couldn't find their way to either chamber in the Capitol but feels free to regularly slam legislators, there are at least a few of us who realize that most legislators

are well-meaning people who must put aside their families, businesses, and community activities for one-quarter of each year to come to Jackson for the session.

That's no small sacrifice, so it would

behoove us to occasionally tell them how much we appreciate the effort even as we loudly complain about what we

perceive they are doing or not doing.

The Mississippi Baptist Christian Action
Commission (CAC) has some helpful hints on how to make contact with legislators, how to get a point across without dooming favored legislation, and how to follow up on the progress of important measures:

· The best communicating is done face-to-face. Make an appointment and be

Cach year at this time the

Esports world's attention is focused on the Super Bowl. On February 6, the New England Patriots will defend their world

championship status in the National Football League against the Philadelphia Eagles.

Bowl is the most exciting

event of the year, and that can be confirmed by the millions

of viewers who watch on tele-vision around the world.

Others complain that the

games are often one-sided,

and the best reason to watch

is to determine which compa-

ny has produced the most cre-

Perhaps the best way to

understand the Super Bowl is to interpret it as the final chap-ter in an epic football novel

that began in the heat of a July

training camp. If a person does not follow the unfolding

drama throughout the season,

it is difficult to fully appreci-ate the significance of the

Super Bowl. Teams that have

overcome adversity, avoided

debilitating injuries, and con-

trolled numerous chaotic field

situations find as their reward

one final contest in which to

display their mastery of the

game. After retirement, when

players reflect on their careers,

ative new commercial.

Some people say the Super

on time. Bring an outline of the one or two main issues you want to discuss. TT'S GOOD TO FEEL NEEDED Be brief, recommend specific solutions, and leave a written summary of your important points.

It's fair to ask the legislator for his/her position on the bills in which you are interested. Don't take it personally if the legislator disagrees. Rather than argue, discuss differ-

ences in a pleasant manner.

• If a personal visit is not possible, write your legislator. Writing can save a legislator's time (a plus in your favor) and provides a record of your position on proposed legislation. Include your full name, address, and telephone number. The address for legislators while in session is P.O. Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39215-1018.

Individual e-mail addresses can be accessed at www.ls.state.ms.us

· Do your research. Know the bills about which you are writing, and include any specific information you have such as the bill number and details. Bill status can be attained by calling (601) 359-3719 while the legis-lature is in session, or by going to www.ls.state.ms.us.

 Telephone calls do not substitute for personal visits and letters. When telephoning legislators, however, make efficient use of your time with them. Identify yourself and the bills you are for or against (again, one or two main issues is a good limit). Explain your reasoning and let them know how you want them to vote.

The telephone number for legislators while they are in session is (601) 359-3770 (House) and (601) 359-3267 (Senate). Just as with personal visits and letters, end the conversation by expressing your thanks for their time.

 Citizens can request to testify before committees about bills they strongly support or oppose. Find out the name of the appropriate committee chairman and con-

tact him as soon as possible. If given the opportunity to testify, get to the point quickly and be prepared to answer any questions legislators may have about your position.

The CAC, a ministry funded by the Mississippi Cooperative Program, stands ready to assist Mississippi Baptists who want to get involved in this grand process of self-governance we enjoy in our state and nation. They can be reached at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3329 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 329. Fax: (601) 292-3350. E-mail: rwood@mbcb.org.

Take the time to get involved, or else

just be content with whatever comes out of the legislative pipeline. Those are really our only two choices.

GUEST OPINION:



Who's your pick for the Super Bowl?

By David Michel, Assoc. Executive Dir. For Mission Strategy Miss. Baptist Convention Bd.

they often say that it was a time in life when they felt more alive than ever again.

Each year at this time in Mississippi we turn our missions attention to the results of the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering. It's like the Super Bowl in a way, because it's a reward for year-round faithfulness in missions promotion.

The Cooperative Program is like the regular season. Without church financial commitments Sunday in and Sunday out, there would be no need for a super offering once a year like Margaret Lackey.

The state mission offering gives us an opportunity to shine like heroes. For instance, Mississippi sent disaster relief workers to New York City for the World Trade Center crisis, and in the next few days we will mobilize teams in response to the tsunami disaster in South Asia. Your gifts make possible these two examples of state mission heroism.

In the last three years more than forty new churches have been started right here in our own state. Who knows how many individuals may come to know Christ because of these evangelistic efforts? Again we see Mississippi Baptists acting as super heroes. Margaret Lackey funds these initiatives and calls us beyond the ordinary to think and act and give in heroic ways.

If your church is involved in mission support through the Cooperative Program, then the Margaret Lackey Offering

takes on added importance because of the sharp focus on Mississippi missions. We not only give the money, but we fulfill the challenging tasks of working out the mission projects. It's a way to feel more alive in our Christian experience and service.

Each year we pray for a larger offering and for more volunteers in mission performance. You can play in this missions Super Bowl.

Everyone should pick a winner for the Super Bowl. It makes the game more interest-ing. The Patriots are the favorite because they have won two of the last three. By the way, how are we doing in Margaret Lackey giving? We've given over a million dollars per year for the last three years. In 2004 Mississippi Baptists gave \$1,629,170.32. I believe that's a winning performance.

Thanks for your faithfulness and generosity. Those who made phone calls, gave testimonies, displayed posters, preached sermons, and wrote peached sermons, and wrote peached sermons are processed to the control of th checks are Mississippi heroes. All of us live more richly because of our efforts together

in missions team building. Let's celebrate our effectiveness in Christ. His Kingdom is the real winner.

THE BAPTIST RECORD

Baptist tsunami relief effort in full swing

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (BP) — "Southern Baptists are committed to serving Sri Lankans for the time it takes to make a significant difference in their lives," a Southern Baptist assessment team member assured.

Pierce Hosmer (not his real name), another team member who serves as the International Mission Board (IMB) strategy coordinator for the Sinhalese Buddhists of Sri Lanka, recounted, "This week, [Southern Baptists] have shown God's love for Sri Lankans by handing out hot meals to the homeless. In the days to come, the needs will change, and we will be here to meet those needs as well."

assessment team The worked closely with local Baptist leaders to determine the most effective ways to minister both physically and spiritually to the people in Sri Lanka. "I asked a pastor friend what

the people's greatest need is right now, and he said they need Bibles. These people have lost everything. Their Bibles were washed out to sea," Hosmer said. "As of Jan. 9, Southern Baptist gifts had purchased 600 Bibles in the Sinhala and Tamil languages, and 340 and Tamil languages, and 340 of those already had been given out, not randomly but to those who truly longed to read God's Word again — or for some, to read it for the first time."

About 77% of Sri Lanka's nearly 20 million population are Buddhists; fewer than one percent of Sri Lankans are evangelical Christian believers, Hosmer said. About 8.5% are Muslims, and about eight percent are Hindus. Southern Baptists are trying to help all of those who are in need, said David Garrison,

leader for the IMB's South Asia region.

Preliminary assess-ment by local Baptist leaders just after the tsunami allowed the Southern Baptist team to focus immediately on the greatest needs, said Pat Julian, Southern Baptist disaster relief coordinator for Asia. Local believers knew of tsunami survivors who had been overlooked by the government and aid agencies because they were not in the hardest-hit areas.

Disaster relief team members from South with local Baptists and

the IMB - were scooping chicken curry onto plates for 800 hungry people at a camp of displaced persons, handing out 300 packets of dry goods at a Buddhist temple and a Muslim mosque and preparing kitchen sets for 618 families who had lost all their cooking utensils.
"The recipients knew that

Christians were sharing with them," Garrison said. "They were touched that those they had formerly persecuted were now extending love to them."

"We are grateful to Southern Baptists and to the Lord for the generous way in which they have responded to this crisis," Hosmer said. "Many of these families have not only lost their homes and possessions, they have lost their livelihood as well. Their jobs are gone. They



FOOD RELIEF — A family in Sri Lanka sits down to a hot meal provided Carolina arrived on the heels of the assessment by Southern Baptists. Displaced by the Dec. 26 tsunami, this family lives team. The next day with five other families in a 20-foot by 20-foot schoolroom. (BP photo they - in partnership courtesy of International Mission Board)

have no resources for the essentials like food, so the thought of replacing children's schoolbooks is overwhelming to them. Yet, Southern Baptists are there for these people, already providing food for them and evaluating what is next."

As of January 24, Mississippi Baptists have given \$91,406.22 to the tsunami relief fund at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB). As of Jan. 18, Southern Baptists and others had contributed more than three million dollars to help tsunami survivors through IMB.

Tax deductible donations are

now being accepted for the MBCB fund. Checks should be made payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board with "tsunami relief" noted on the memo line, and mailed to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, ATTN: Tsunami Relief, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

People who are donating to tsunami relief have been cautioned by charity experts to be sure they are donating to organizations that will utilize the money for the intended pur-pose; fully 100% of the funds donated to the MBCB special tsunami relief fund will be used in the Mississippi Baptist/ Southern Baptist response to the tsunami disaster.

FRONT PAGE

THE

SECOND

Mississippi Baptists who would like to volunteer to assist tsunami relief survivors through the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit should contact the MBCB Men's Ministry Department at the above address. Telephone: (601) 292-3334. E-mail: cwright @mbcb.org. Specialized training and immunizations may

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit, on standby since the tsunami struck, has been activated in coordination with the wider-Southern Baptist relief effort and will soon be deployed to an unnamed area in the region, said Jim Didlake, MBCB Director of Men's Ministry and coordinator of Mississippi Baptist disaster relief efforts.

be required.

"A great tragedy has struck Sri Lanka," Hosmer said. "Many lives have been lost already. We don't want another Sri Lankan to die without Jesus in their hearts."

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

BAPTISTS

JANUARY 27, 2005 VOL. 129 No. 4

Judge upholds DOMA

TAMPA, Fla. (BP) — In the first ruling of its kind, a federal judge upheld the Detense of Marriage Act (DOMA) on January 19, dismissing a case brought by a lesbian couple that had sought to have their Massachusetts marriage license recognized in Florida. The lawsuit was filed last July on behalf of Nancy Wilson and Paula Schoenwether, a lesbian couple from Florida that had "married" in Massachusetts. The couple asked the court to overturn the Defense of Marriage Act, the 1996 federal law that gives states the option of not recognizing another states same sex marriage. Florida has a law banning gay marriage. U.S. District Judge James S. Moody Ir. agreed with ontgoing U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroff's motion to dismiss the case and ruled that DOMA does not violate the U.S. Constitution of Data and Recognized that DOMA does not violate the U.S. Constitution of Data and Recognized that DOMA does not violate the U.S. Constitution of Data and Recognized the Constitution of Data and Recognized that DOMA does not violate the U.S. Constitution of Data and Recognized that DOMA does not violate the U.S. Constitution of Data and Recognized that DOMA does not violate the Constitution of Data and Recognized the Constitution of Data and Recognized that DOMA does not violate the Constitution of Data and Recognized that DOMA does not violate the Constitution of Data and Recognized that DOMA does not violate the Constitution of Data and Recognized the Constitution of Data and

Looking back

Plans to sell the Mississippi Baptist Convention's Clarke College campus in Newton to a filmmaking group fail to materialize when Deep South Film Institute, Inc., misses a 60-day deadline extension to purchase the property for one million dollars.

The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission warns that Mississippi is being cited by several prominent gambling industry publications as a prime target for legalized gambling legislation in the coming year.

Grenada Association in Grenada leads all the Mississippi Baptist associations in the state in per capita Cooperative Program giving, with 2685 members giving an average of \$8.23 each.



You Can Respond RIGHT Now!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

- 1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
- 2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
- 3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
- 4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

CHANGING STANDARDS

Christmas had come and gone, and we had just passed New Years when for the first time in several weeks I stepped on our home weight meter. I had tried not to overeat, and I had steered away from a good bit of the sugar and dessert offerings, but now I wanted to see if I had gained, lost, or maintained during the holidays. I thought I had behaved, but now I was going to find out. I stepped up on the scale, looked down as the meter settled on a number, and was shocked as I saw I had gained just over 10 pounds. I stood there for a few seconds and finally, I stepped back and walked away bewildered and in the early stages of depression. I just couldn't believe it, but that is what it said. I walked away thinking, "Boy, have I got my work cut out for me over the next few months." I immediately, at least in my mind, signed up with the millions of other Americans who had made a resolution to lose weight this year.

A few minutes passed by and I decided I would go back and weigh again. I walked over to what now had become my archenemy, the scales. I stared at them as though they had done something horrible to me and then started to step right on top of them once again. Before I could get my foot planted on the scale, I



Directions 1

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

noticed something I had not seen before. Somebody had knowingly or unknowingly played with the little adjustment that sets the meter, and before I ever stepped on the scale it was reading about 12 pounds. I don't know who did it, but I immediately thought about some youngster nieces, nephews, or even grandkids, who had been with us over the holidays. Maybe one of them had reset the scale so that it was off. I quickly adjusted the knob so that I was back at zero when I started. I stepped on the scale and to my pleasant surprise I was about a pound less than when I started the Christmas holidays.

Suddenly, I felt much better about myself than I had just minutes before. I realized that the bad feelings I had about myself were because of a wrong evaluation by a machine that someone had misdirected. Then on further reflection I realized that goes on every day almost everywhere you turn. There are people around us who are down, depressed, uncertain about themselves, and feeling awkward about life

because of some misreading they have received from somebody around them. It is amazing, just a comment, and all of a sudden we believe what they say about us. A person may hear something like, "You can't do that, you are not very smart, you are dumb, you are ugly you are awkward, you don't have much talent, you can't play the game, you can't sing very well, your personality is dull, you are not a very good parent, you are an uncaring spouse, you are a bad worker, and the endless list goes on of ways people may evaluate you and words they have to say. Sometimes they are right, but often they are wrong. Many times they are just partially correct, but you accept it as though it is an absolute, unchangeable fact. The results are that your heart is affected, your spirit withers, your selfesteem drops, and you wonder what in the world you're going to do. Like me looking at the scale, you have to give it serious consideration and like me you probably think that you have done something wrong. It is not always that way. Just remember there are times that others give false readings about who you are, what your

motives are. They can be way off base.

Honestly, I am not trying to psychoanalyze any of us or practice pop psychology, but I am here to tell you and remind me that we are made by God in His wonderful image and that God has a plan and a purpose for our lives that does not need to be reshaped, undone, warped, or thwarted by anybody else's interpretation. Years ago I read a story about the days when Billy Graham was preaching for the Youth for Christ organization. One afternoon four young men were preaching at a conference and the men who were back in the foyer of the church were evaluating their preaching. Which of these young men would be the most successful and would they do well in ministry? Of the four Billy Graham received the worst evaluation and, according to the story, these men generally agreed that the young fellow, Billy Graham, would never make it in the preaching business.

Well, I dare say that he has made it better in the preaching business than they probably made it in the ushering business. Just remember as people evaluate you that sometimes their meters may be twisted and warped. We all need to see each other with a greater sense of grace and understanding. By the way, before you go on a crash starvation diet, go check the scales to make sure they are right.

others give false readings The author may be contacted at about who you are, what your abilities may be, and what your 0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference February 17-18, 2005

First Baptist Church, Ocean Springs

Registration begins at 12:30 p.m.
Mississippi Singing Churchmen Rehearsal at 1:30 p.m.
Conference begins at 4:00 p.m.

Program Personalities: Michael Sharp - NOBTS, Marty Parks - Christ United Methodist Church, Karen Hardy Fisk, Robin Vaughan & Rene' Britt - Friend of the Third Woman Mississippi Singing Churchmen in Concert on Thursday evening.

(All music minister, church music leaders, accompanists & musicians and college student; in church music are encouraged to attend)

Contact the church music department at 601-292-3267 for information on registration and fees.

www.mbcb.org

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E-mail: Jackson@mtstravel.com Phone: 1(800)647-5296 What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

January 27, 2005

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Pray this day for...

January 28 – February 10, 2005

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"You can do more than pray, after you have prayed, but you can never do more than pray until you have prayed."

A. J. Gordon

urneyman William Brown has en teaching the "True Love

Elizabeth Ford, Rock Hill, SC, is the director of Christian Women's Job Corps. Pray for God to use the family intervention program to strengthen families, draw single moms to Jesus, tive lope to chil-dren, and help in times of crisis.

Linda Middlebrooks and Larry Miguez work with the Rachel Sims Baptist Mission in New Orleans. to know Christ.

The Buryat Team of Russia writes: "Adjusting to life in the village is more difficult than anticipated and "culture shock" has become a reality. Please continue to pray for documents to be completed in order for a phone line to be put in the house. Pray especially that our MKs living in the village will meet new playmates.

For: (1) True Love Waits (D&FM Emphasis); (2) A young Arab man sits in prison in Central Yemeni because he will not denounce his faith in Jesus Chust. This causes believers to have great fear. Please pray that these believers will stand strong in their faith

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS, 9 -11; (2) Training Effective Leaders, Shocco Springs, Ala. (WMU).

Missionaries in Mexico City are aiming to mobilize, equip and mentor scores of national church planting teams in B missionaries are concentrating their efforts on four responsive corridors within this city of 28 million people. Pray for Mexicans in these areas to respond rapidly to the gospel.

Mauritius, a beautiful island in the Indian Ocean, has people from nearly every continent – and every religion as well. Pray that national Christian there will be ready to share the gospel with

Loy W. Reed, Jacksonville, Fla. is director of collegiate ministries with the Florida Baptist Convention. Tray for resources to send students on mission. There are more students wanting to go than can be funded. Pray for revival on the college campuses.

Visitors from all over the world will visit the Aichi, Japan EXPO (March 25-September 25). Southern R pliss wounteers from the U.S.A., bota missionaries, and Japanese C risting yill be sharing the gospel with those who visit the Expo as well as with the local people. Pray for them to hear the Good News with responsive hearts

For: (1) Area Keyboard Festivals, Hernando and Pascagoula (CM); (2) Men's Conference, FBC, Madison 28th-29th; (3) George son 28th-29th; (3) George akly lettis language work for as-Nebra ta pomention of hern factists Pray that more ers will come forth to plant anic churches and for the first African-American fellowship

For: (1) WMU Executive Board Meeting, Camp Garaywa, Clinton (WMU); (2) Every day 7,000 young people in lest Africa become injected with HIV (girls at twice the rate of boys). Pray that Christian youth there will know what it means to "live pure and both lives before the Eather." and holy lives before the Father.

For: (I) Area Keyboard Festivals, North Greenwood BC, Greenwood; FBC, Grenada; Alta Woods BC, Jackson, 9:30 a.m. -noon (Cl.0); 2) Tease pray for President Higo Charez Frias of

S is a church planter among the Kamma of South India. He has had a hand in the starting of 15 new churches in the last year. Pray that he would have the wisdom to train and appoint leadership in these churches and mentor them in church alarting mentor them in church-planting practices.

AWARDS

PURPOSE: The Witnessing Through Media Awards have been created to recognize radio and video productions which demonstrate excellence in message design and production in helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

WHEN:

May 6-7, 2005

Awards Banquet on Friday, May 6, 7-9 p.m. Workshops on Saturday, May 7, 8 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

WHERE:

Park Place Baptist Church

5701 Hwy. 80 East, Pearl, MS 39208

AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

One award for VIDEO (broadcast or nonbroadcast) and one award for RADIO in Categories 1-3 in each division.

- BEST PROGRAM
 - A. MISSIONS / EVANGELISM
 - **B. CHURCH MUSICALS**
 - C. COMMUNITY SERVICE
 - (i.e., human interest, sports, and others)
- 2. BEST SPOT
- 3. BEST FIRST TIME ENTRY
- 4. BEST USE OF WEB SITE
- A \$10 fee per entry

Division I

Small budget projects using volunteers as well as in-house production facilities.

Medium to large budget projects using paid staff or outside production house. This also applies to radio stations or other professional sound productions.

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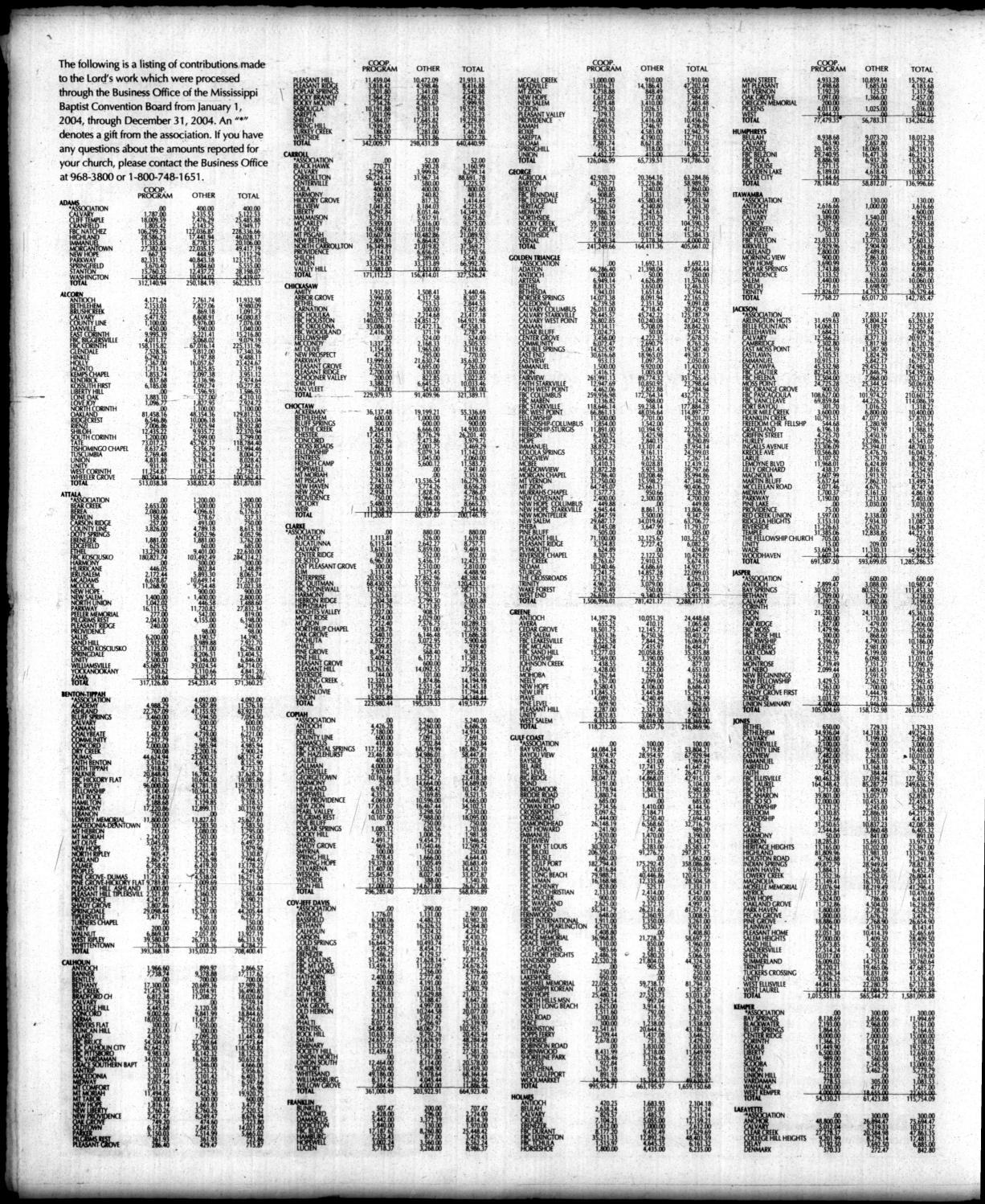
February 15, 2005 · 9 a.m.-noon Liberty Baptist Church, Flowood 5199 Lakeland Drive

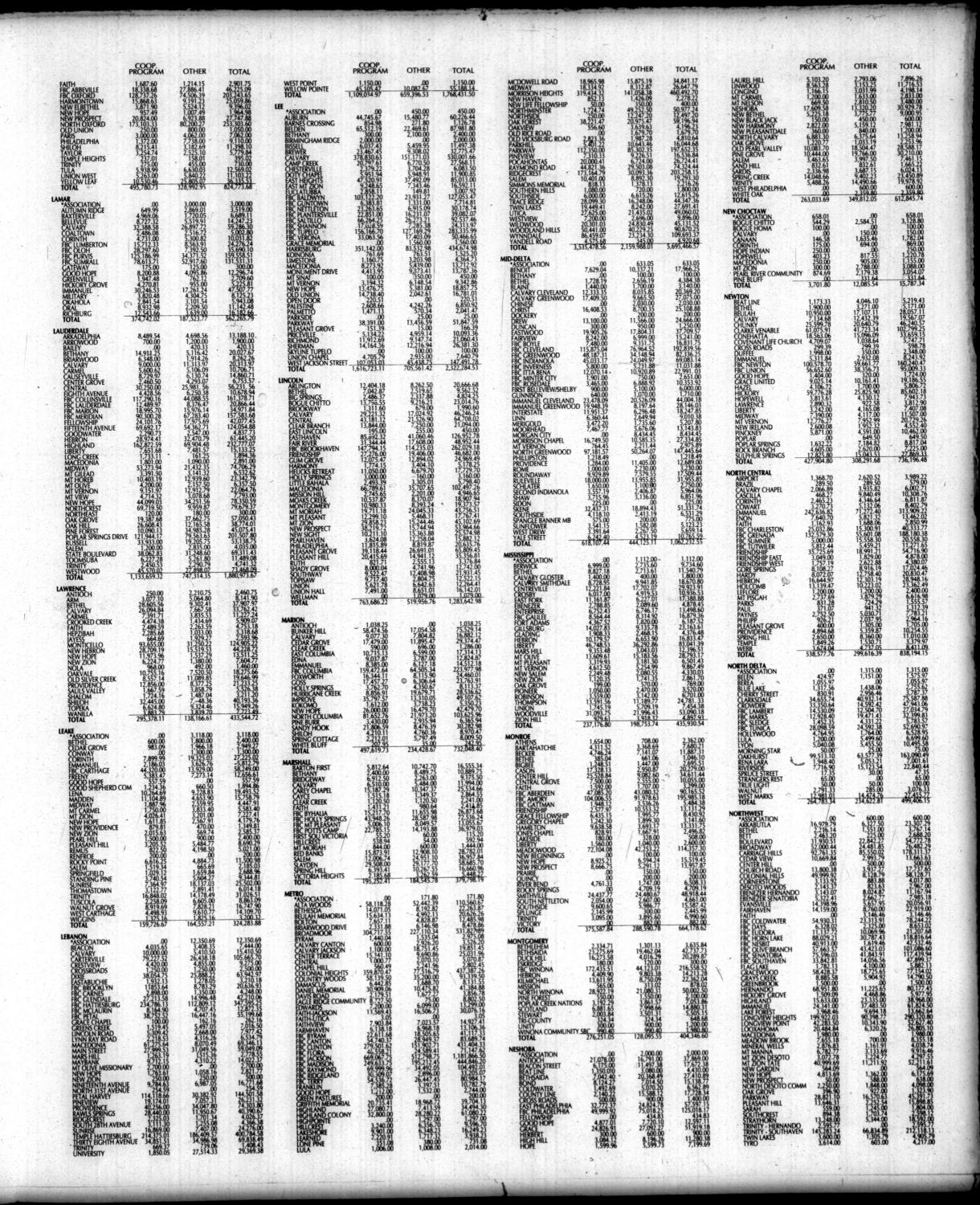
February 15, 2005 · 6:30-8:30 p.m. Trinity Baptist Church, Southaven 7200 Swinnea Road

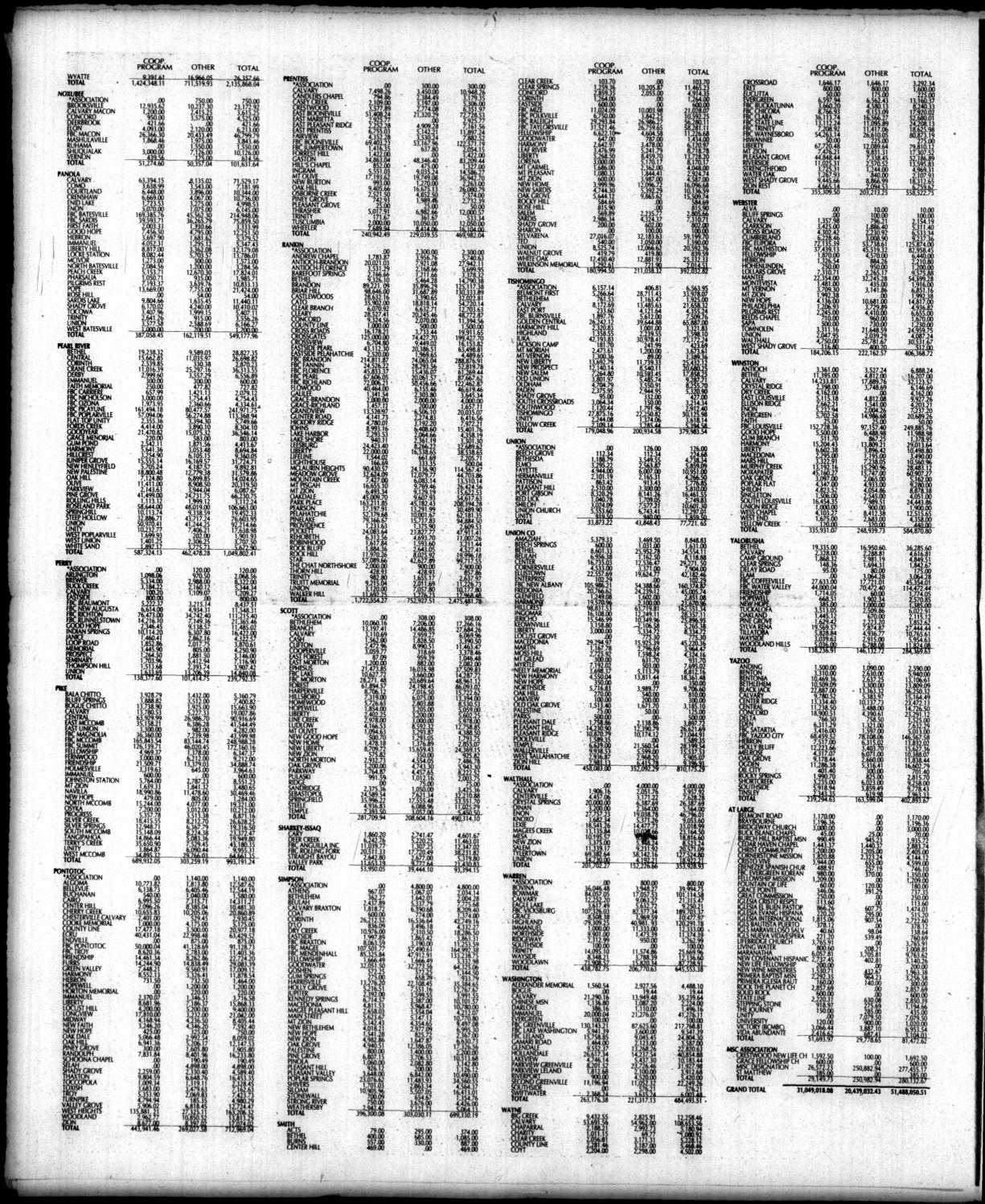
For info, contact the Sunday School Department 601-292-3292 or 1-800-748-1651



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UST FOR THE RECORD

information call (662) 369-6930.

First Church, Waynesboro, has

exceeded their \$10,000.00 goal

for the Lottie Moon offering by

members.

Liberty Church, Liberty, ordained Justin Dixon and Dewitt Craft as deacons. Shown, from left, are Dixon; James A. Sadler, pastor; and Craft.

New Hope Church, Foxworth, ordained minister of youth Lars Stensland, III, to the ministry. Shown, from left, are Dorman Laird, William Carey College; Stensland; and Tim Parker, pastor.

Lone Pine Church, Canton, ordained Carlton Pearson as a deacon. Shown, from left, are J. W. Williams; Pearson; Virgil Cullipher; and James W. Buie,

Hopewell Church, McCool, recently ordained Jeffery Hutchison to the ministry.



Jeffery & Ashley Hutchison

Hutchinson will be serving at Mount Peeler Church, Kosciusko. Shown are Hutchison and his wife Ashley.

The children's choir of Salem Church, Tylertown, participated in Tylertown's annual



Ground breaking, Heritage Church, George County

7:00 p.m.; led by R.J. Wilemon, retired Tupelo \$3,564.00. Mavis McCain, pastor; music by Slater Murphy, WMU director. minister of music, Fairview Church, Columbus. For more

Macedonia Church, Blue Mountain, ordained Kenny Roberson as deacon. Shown, from left, are Edd McCafferty, pastor; Lawrence Lowrey, James Henry, Bruce Thornton, Roberson, and Billy Joshlin, deacons.

Heritage Church, George County Association, held a ground breaking ceremony on October 31, 2004, at the property of their new fall 2005 sanctuary.

Harrisville Church, Simpson County, set a record Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal of \$4,000.00 and gave \$4,201.00. Betty Dear, WOM director; Clarence Young, supply pastor.

Benton Church, Benton, will host New Genesis in concert Jan. 30 at 5 p.m. A fellowship will follow. For more information, call (662) 673-9708.

Heaven's Grace quartet will lead worship at Poplar Springs Church, Hazlehurst, Jan. 30, 10:30 a.m. For more information, call (601) 643-2002.

Steve Walker, Pinola, will be in concert at Robinhood Church, Brandon, Jan. 30, 7 p.m. Free admission, but a love offering will be received. Call (601) 825-0975 or (601) 847-4375 for more information.

The Providentials will be in concert at Johnston Station Church, Summit, Feb. 5, 6 p.m., followed by a chili supper. For information, call (601) 276-2632.

Grief Gathering reconvenes at First Church, Jackson, Thursdays, Jan. 20 through Nov. 17, at 6:30 p.m., in the Christian Life Center Conference Room. This is a "safe place" to explore personal grief. For information, call (601) 949-1907.

Calvary Church, Saratoga, is having a spaghetti supper and gospel singing featuring Billy Ray Runnels, Tanya Patterson, and others, Jan. 29, beginning at 3 p.m. Plates are \$5.

Clear Branch Church, Lincoln County Association, celebrates their 125th anniversary this year. Multi-day celebrations to take place March 6, May 22, and July 17 at 10:30 a.m. followed by dinner on the grounds and afternoon programs beginning at 1:30 p.m. Contact (601) 833-4872 for more information.



Deacon Ordination, Liberty Church



Macedonia Church Deacon Ordination, Blue Mountain



Dorman Laird, Lars Stenland, and Tim Parker



Salem Church Children's Choir, Tylertown



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And We Are Changed: Encounters with a Transforming God

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February 4-5, 2005 - 9 p.m. & Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 12 p.m. First Baptist Church Jackson, Mississippi

Early Bird Registration - \$25/person by January 15, 2005 Registration - \$30/person (Prices includes Brunch on Saturday & materials)

To Register contact Mary Byrd at 601-714-6926 or wem@fbcj.org
For more information log on to www.fbcj.org



Deacon Ordination, Lone Pine Church, Canton

Bibliocipher By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004 copyrighted 2005

HZXVAF, JXZ FYD VS JXZ AVGF LVNZJX, YCF JXD QOVPA QXYAA HZ FPBPFZF PC JXZ NPFQJ

VS JXZZ.

UZLXYGPYX SVKGJZZC: VCZ

Clue: H = BHave fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Obadiah 1:15

MS Positions

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH in Ellisville, Miss., is seeking a full-time or part-time pastor. Please send resume to Fellowship Baptist Church, c/o John Abadie, 1069 Ovett Moselle Road, Ellisville, MS 39437.

CARROLL-MONTGOMERY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, Winona, Miss., is seeking resumes for an Association Mission Director. Mail resumes to Carroll Montgomery Baptist Association, PO Box 461, Winona, MS 38967. Or call 662-283-4172, resume deadline is February 28, 2005.

PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER: Pocahontas Baptist Church. Please send resume to 4200 Kickapoo Road, Jackson, MS 39209. Experience preferred, but not required. If any questions call Michael Bird, pastor, 601-982-2305.

PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH in Hernando, Miss., located 20 miles south of Memphis, TN, is seeking a fulltime minister of education and a parttime minister of music. We are seeking spiritually mature, aggressive, motivated team members. Parkway is a growing church with unlimited potential. lease pray about this, and if the Lord is leading you, contact the personnel committee at 50 N. Parkway, Hernando, MS 38632. Or fax (662) 429-6076 or

email bailey_pbc@yahoo.com.

RAYMOND ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking qualified individuals to work extended care hours for children ages birth through five years each Sunday and Wednesday evening. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and will be required to submit to an interview process and background check. All interested parties should contact the church office at 601-372-6154.

Brad Vose has been called as minister of music at Parkway Church, Tupelo. Vose is a graduate of Union University and Southwestern Seminary.

Stepping Stone Church, Brandon, has called Mark Dearman as pastor.



from Cleveland, Ohio, and holds a Bachelor of Arts in religion and Masters of Divinity in music and sociology.

Hebron Church, Meridian, has called Lori L. Schuler as minister of music and students.

Liberty Church, Liberty, has called

served as part-time since

music and youth. Combs is February 2004.

Bilbo Calvary Church, Jimmy Bilbo as full-Pascagoula, has called John time minister of music. He has Combs as full-time minister of

February 28 - March 1, 2005

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College & Seminary News

Blue Mountain College announces that Anna Quinn, associate professor of English, and Misty Huggins Chessor, senior, Middleton, Tenn., have been named as the 2005 William Winter Scholars. The honorees were selected because of their achievements in the area of humanities.

Blue Mountain College's Spring Career Day is Feb. 8 and is open to all students and alumni of the college. Employers interested in participating may contact Teresa Arrington at (662) 685-4771, ext. 127.

Mississippi College is offering review courses for the ACT assessment for the Apr. 9 test date. Four review sessions are scheduled, \$15 each, and each session is independent of the

other. Schedule is Test Mechanics, Mar. 19, 9 – 11:30 a.m. (registration deadline, Mar. 11); Grammar, Mar. 19, 1 - 3:30 p.m. (registration deadline, Mar. 11); Math, Apr. 2, 9 - 11:30 a.m. (registration deadline, Mar. 25); and Science, Apr. 2, 1 – 3:30 p.m. (registration deadline, Mar. 25). For information, call (601) 925-3265 or e-mail cmoore@mc.edu.

Mississippi College (MC) is offering a course to assist individuals who are preparing to take the GRE admissions test. The course is 12 instructional hours of review. Schedule is Feb. 17, Feb. 24, and Mar. 1 from 6 -10 p.m. Registration deadline is Feb. 10, and cost is \$195. Call (601) 925-3265 or e-mail cmoore@mc.edu for more information.

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Your group will fly into Salt Lake City starting a six-night motor coach tour of the Pacific Northwest visiting Salt Lake City (including the Mormon Tabernacle, Beehive House and Great Salt Lake; Idaho Falls; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Grand Teton and Yellowstone (Old Faithful) National Parks; Montana; Lake Coeur d'Alene; the Grand Coulee Dam; Washington; the Cascade Mountains; and British Columbia. In Vancouver you will board your five-star ship HAL's ms Zaandam.

Next, travel through a wondrous maze of forested island and glacier carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving placiers to Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and spectacular Glacier Bay.

After the cruise you'll take a scenic drive to Seattle, spending one night before flying home. Prices for this 15-day vacation start at only \$2348 (per person, double occupancy). Included is round trip airfare, port charges and taxes, lots of escorted motor coach sightseeing throughout the Pacific Northwest, the 7-day deluxe Alaska cruise, 7 nights in quality hotels, transfers, and baggage handling.

\$100 deposits are now due. Friends and family are welcome. For information, reservations, brochure, and Rev. Worrells' letter call:

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THE BAPTIST RECORD

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Avoid Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Proverbs 20:1; 23:20-21, 29-33; Romans 14:19-21; Ephesians 5:15

By Frances C. Graham

Who has problems? Who has quarrels? Who has anxiety? Who has poor health? Who has experienced hallucinations?

Often alcohol and drugs are associated with laughter, great fun, and much partying. The aforementioned questions pre-sent a devastating picture that is opposite to the party scene.

Marriages can be destroyed, homes can be wrecked, and businesses can "go under" all because of enslavement to the use of substances such as alcohol and drugs.

The drunkard in Proverbs 23:33-35 is described as miserable in the drunken state but yet he cannot wait to wake up so he can have another drink.

Caution is given in this passage to even looking at the wine

since its sparkle and smooth swirl can be an invitation to partake, but it is as deadly as a poisonous snake.

(Proverbs 23:29-32) Wine mocks the one who drinks it. Strong drink causes the drinker to be loud, aggressive, and unable to practice self-con-trol. Misery and suffering are inherent for the abuser of the substances. People are lead astray as they act foolish and abusive. (Proverbs 20:1)

Two examples of such behavior can be found in Genesis 9:10-11 and Genesis 19:30-36. The first is when Noah became drunk and in turn naked. The second reference describes the drunken state of Lot when he slept with each of his daughters and did not even realize what was happening.



Graham

Gant

individuals will state that the Word of God does not prohibit the use of alcohol but rather that it was used regularly at celebrations and festivals. The state of intoxication was unacceptable for any member of the covenant community, though. (Proverbs 23:20-21, 29-35; 31:4-7) Given the ease

of consuming excessive amounts of alcohol, it is wise to avoid it entirely.

It is so easy to focus on alcohol abuse and determine that we, you and I, do not have a problem with it. We may have chosen the stance of total abstinence and therefore feel pretty good about ourselves. The question is not how we feel about ourselves though but rather: Do we have an addiction to some substance in our life? Substance abuse is no longer limited to some back room in the local tavern. It is instead in many homes and offices. It is on the sports field and in the local high school. It is experienced by some wives of the prominent, children of the abused, the most

popular in school, by some of the leaders in our nation, and the list continues to grow. Substance abuse knows no boundaries. It holds people captive either by a bottle, a pill, a needle or a snort from substances that are debilitating and also deadly in respect to what they can do and how they can affect one's life.

Alcohol abuse is sometimes easier to identify than some of the other substances that also hold people hostage. Abuse of any drug whether it is illegal, overthe-counter, and/or prescription has a consistent detrimental impact on the person using the substance. In other words, the individual who is dependent on the substance spends his time, energy, money, and all remaining resources on being able to obtain the substance, use the substance, and hide the substance involved in the abusive behavior.

The questions to each one of us should be: Am I an abuser of any substance whether the substance is legally obtained or illegally obtained? dependent upon something I consume internally into my body? Am I a captive to any

medication, food, or drink? The questions could never be exhaustive of every example of substances addressed, but by now you are realizing the picture that is drawn with these words in this lesson.

We as sons and daughters of Christ who are saved by grace through faith are held responsible for what we do to and with our bodies. When our focus is not on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, then we can not glorify Him with our actions but instead become stumbling blocks to our neighbor. We are told in Romans 14:21 that "It is better to not eat or drink wine or to do anything that will cause our brother to stumble."

We are to instead "submit our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God" (Romans 12:1) We are to walk in the way of the wise and make the most of every oppor-tunity. We are to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:15-18) and it should be evident in every choice that we make.

Graham is a member of Adaton Church, Starkville.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

What About Unbelievers?

Luke 20:8-19

By Neil Gant

Throughout the ministry of Jesus as recorded in the Gospels, we find that He was a person with great authority. When He taught, the people commented that He spoke with authority. He had authority over diseases, demons, death, and the deep. This authority is not merely of the category of power, but also of rule or sovereignty. The Pharisees and the other religious leaders despised the authority of Jesus primarily because it detracted from their hold and sway over the people. So when the opportunity arose they challenged His authority. They came to the Lord the day after He cleansed the Temple and wanted to know by what authority He had done it. These religious leaders wanted certain questions answered. What are

your credentials? Where are your ordination papers? What seminary did you attend? Who gave you authority to

raise the dead, make the lame walk, make the deaf hear, cause the dumb to speak, and cast out demons? Who said you could go about without the proper papers and actually help people? He now is about to tell them about how they had responded to authority and the consequences of that response.

REBELLION AGAINST GOD'S AUTHORITY, LUKE 20:8-12

In this parable we have a landowner who planted a vineyard, and after contracting with the caretakers, has gone away. The owner entrusted these men to care for and uphold their part of the deal. When the time came for harvest, the owner

sent a servant to get some of the harvest. The servant was beaten and sent away. The owner sent another servant and he was treated shamefully. He sent yet a third and he was wounded by the caretakers. These care-takers rejected the authority of landowner and ignored

the words of his representatives. The people of Israel in particular rejected the words of the prophets. They ignored the representatives of the Lord God and rebelled against His authority. The last prophet rejected was John the Baptist.

REJECTION OF GOD'S SON, **LUKE 20:13-15A**

The owner then sent his beloved son to the vineyard. He was certain that the caretakers would respect and hear him as having the authority of his Just the opposite father. occurred. They saw the son and reasoned that killing him would give them the vineyard because he was the heir. The workers in

the parable assumed that the father was dead because he did not come personally to confront them about the way they had treated the other servants. They cast the son out of the vineyard and killed him. When the Lord Jesus came to the earth, the exact same thing happened to Him. His authority was rejected. His truth was ignored. His love was spurned. He was taken and killed.

REAPING GOD'S JUDGMENT, LUKE 20:15B-19

The Lord Jesus ended the parable with judgment. The owner would come and destroy the caretakers and give the vineyard to others. The people reacted with "Certainly not!" They did so because they knew He was talking about them. They sought Him just as the caretakers in the parable sought the owner's son. They did not yet take the Lord Jesus because they feared the reaction of the people. Verses 17 and 18 indicate that the people rejected the chief cornerstone. The person who persists in rejecting Christ will be pulver-ized in judgment.

The elements of the parable become clear. The vineyard is Israel. The owner is God. The tenants are the religious leaders. The servants are the prophets. The Son is clearly the Lord Jesus. To summarize another writer: The meaning of the para-ble is plain. God the owner let out His vineyard to the nation. Then in His timing He sent the prophets to gather His fruits. Instead of returning the fruits of repentance, confession, and a return to God's authority they abused His messengers even to the death of some. In His patience He sent John the Baptist. He received the same treatment. Finally, He sent the Lord Jesus Christ. What was the result? They cast Him out of His own possession and then killed Him!

What lessons can we learn from this parable? (1) the deep corruption of human nature; (2) the amazing patience and long-suffering of God; (3) the severity of God's judgment on obstinate [stubborn] sinners.

Gant is pastor of Pleasant Grove Church, Gore Springs.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish ws and photographs of special events

news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

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and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested published.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis, Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Immorality blamed for terrorism success

WASHINGTON (BP) Widespread immorality in the United States could be a key reason for Islamic terrorists' acts of violence against Americans, according to a gov-ernment commission, a scholar, and a Southern Baptist pastor.

fight against America and uphold Islamic moral standards

is to kill Americans, they say. Coinciding with the release of the 9/11 Commission Report and Mead's book was a sermon series in late 2004 by Jim Henry, pastor of First Church in Orlando, Fla.,

and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention. In the four-part series Henry challenged Christians to restore biblical values in America in order to glorify God and end the provocation of radical Islamic terrorists.

Careful not to justify in any way their attacks on innocents, Henry said it is clear that an increase in decadence has brought about the recent onslaught of Islamic terrorist attacks.

"[L]et's acknowledge that America's increasing decadence is giving aid and comfort to the enemy," Henry said.
"When we tolerate trash on television, permit pornography to invade our homes on the Internet and allow babies to be killed at the point of birth, we are inflaming radical Islam."

> Bin Ladin and his followers believe American immorality to be so severe that the only remedy is to kill Americans whenever possible, the 9/11 Commission concluded.

"We believe that the worst thieves in the world today and the worst terrorists are the Americans," Bin Ladin said in a 1998 interview with ABC-TV, which was referenced by 9/11 Commission. the "Nothing could stop you except perhaps retaliation in kind. We do not have to differentiate between military or civilian. As far as we are con-cerned, they are all targets."

Polls taken in predominately Muslim countries in 2002-03 confirm that many Middle Eastern Muslims share Bin Ladin's view of the United States in varying degrees. In Egypt, the recipient of more U.S. aid for the past 20 years than any other Muslim country, only 15% of the population has a favorable opinion of the United States; in Saudi Arabia, 12%; and Indonesia, 15%.

Such a low opinion of America in Muslim nations, according to Mead, a senior fel-low with the Council on Foreign Relations, is precipitated largely by the perception that "the West has lost touch with its spiritual roots, that we have given our lives over to dissipation and an amoral search for pleasure, that our societies are depersonalized and uncaring, that we ruthlessly neglect the unfortunate in other, poorer countries, and that the exploitation of women continues under the mask of a philosophy of personal liberation."

Many of these perceptions are the result of "unfair and untrue" propaganda, Mead acknowledges. However, they have "some plausibility," and "we shall have to take steps to make these charges less plausible in the future," he writes.

The extent of anti-American sentiment in the Muslim world was demonstrated in early January when an Egyptian weekly magazine reported that the tsunami that struck countries surrounding the Indian Ocean Dec. 26 "was possibly" caused by an Indian nuclear experiment in which "Israeli and American

nuclear experts participated."

The magazine, Al-Osboa', also said that the United States "showed readiness to cooperate with India in experiments to exterminate humankind."

In order to combat negative perceptions of the United States and the consequent terrorism, "the U.S. government must define what the message is, what it stands for," the 9/11 Commission recommended. "We should offer an example of moral leadership in the world, committed to

snip in the world, committed to treat people humanely, abide by the rule of law, and be generous and caring to our neighbors."

Noting that Muslim nations develop their perception of America largely from satellite television and radio, the commission continued, "If the United States does not act United States does not act aggressively to define itself in the Islamic world, the extremists

will gladly do the job for us."

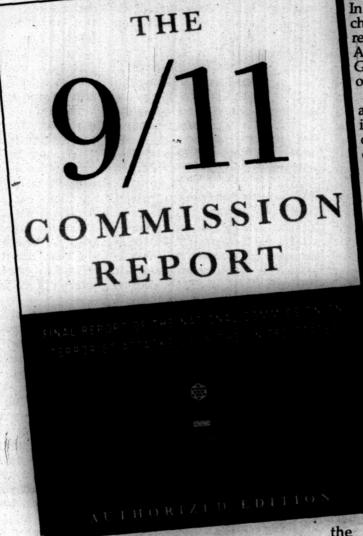
Henry agreed, citing the responsibility of the church to lead a return to biblical morality in America. "[R]eversing American decadence [is] an urgent priority, not just for Christians, but for all Americans," the Florida pastor said. "If our cultural rot continues unabated, Talabanized West may no longer

be a joke, but a grim reality."

Voting for political candidates with commendable character is one way to promote moral reform in America, Henry said. "Look to his character, When a citizen gives his vote to a man of known immorality, he abuses his civic responsibility. He sacrifices not only his own interest but that of his neighbors. He betrays the interest of his country."

Another effective way of com-bating negative impressions: according to USA Today, tsunami relief efforts spearheaded by more than 13,000 American military personnel are prompting at least some Muslims to re-evaluate their attitudes on the U.S.

Mead concludes, "Inescapably," any moral reform that changes Muslim opinions of the U.S. must "lead many Americans to renew their personal faith commitments and make the moral and social ideals of their religious roots more relevant in their daily conduct and in their assessments of politi-cians and of political ideas."



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Both the recently-released

9/11 Commission Report and

Power, Terror, Peace, and War, a

new book by Walter Russell Mead, have noted that radical

Islamists such as Osama Bin Ladin view the United States as

the central player in a "war against God." The only way to

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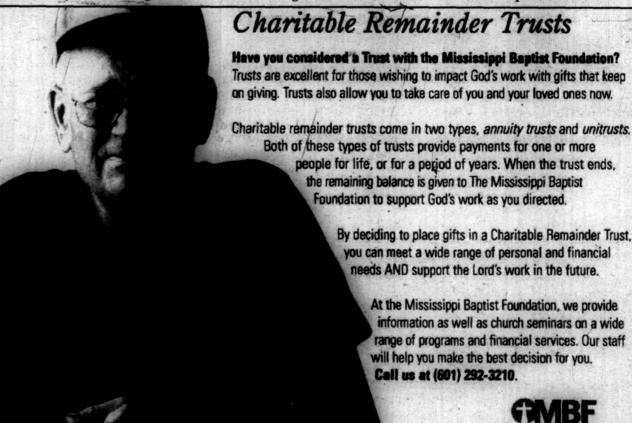
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